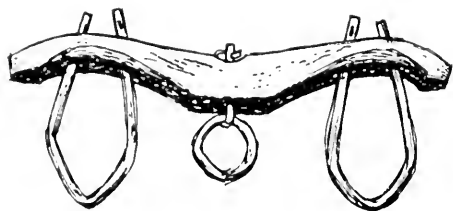


906  
EV  
1910

Evanston Historical  
Society  
Lincoln's Visit to  
Evanston in the Year  
Before the War

LINCOLN ROOM



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
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906  
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1910

ELEVENTH YEAR

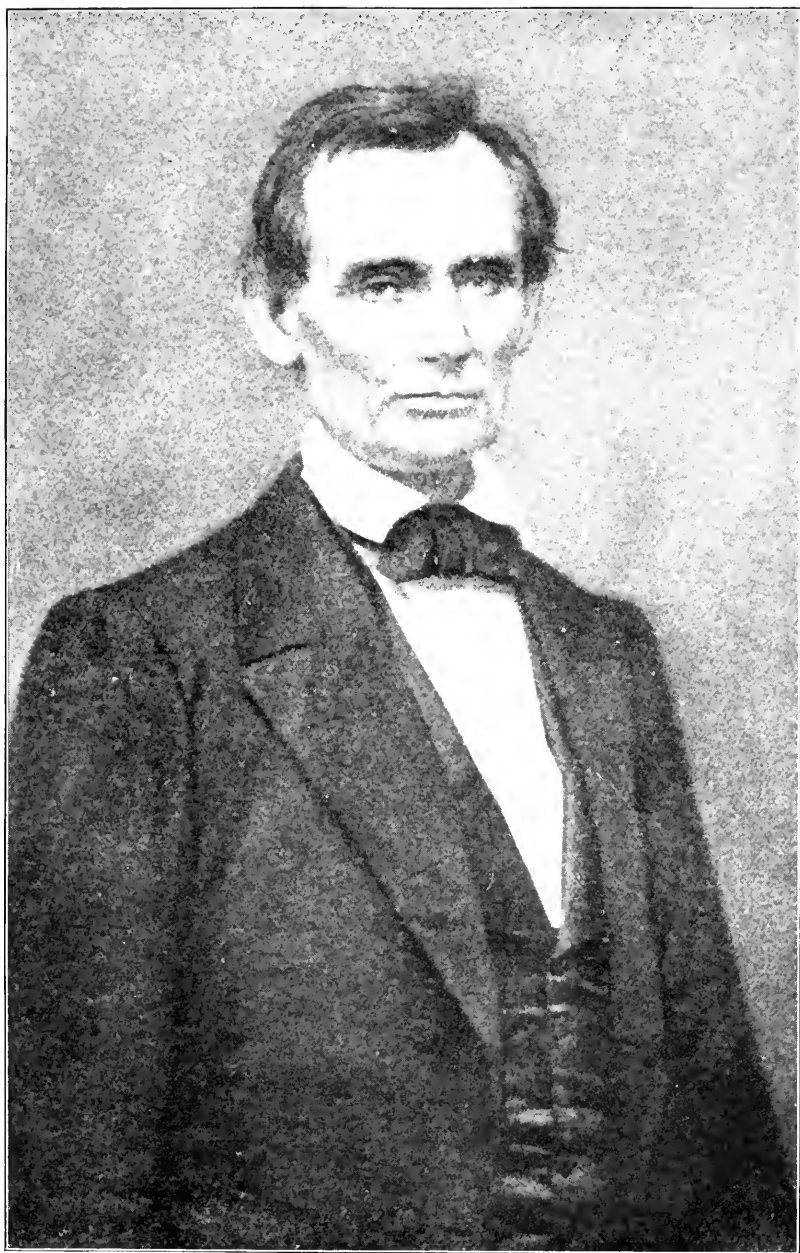
Evanston Historical  
Society

EVANSTON :: ILLINOIS  
1910









*Courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Society*

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

From a photograph taken in New York by Brady, at the time of the speech at Cooper Institute, in 1860. From Hapgood's "Abraham Lincoln."





# EVANSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED NOVEMBER 21, 1898

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## ==PROCEEDINGS== REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND LIST OF DONORS

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ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF A VISIT TO  
EVANSTON, MADE BY ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN, IN THE SPRING OF 1860

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
JULY, 1910

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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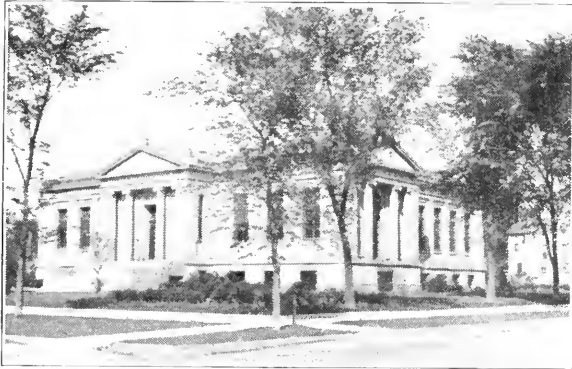
J. SEYMOUR CURREY . . . . President  
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HENRY J. PATTEN  
JOSEPH F. WARD

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## REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

For the information of such institutions as desire to preserve a file of our reports it may be stated that the Society has published one for 1901, consisting of a four page sheet; one for 1902, a pamphlet of twelve pages; one in November, 1908, fifteen pages; and the one of which this paragraph is a part; four in all. There are no others.



EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In November, 1908, the Society issued a report giving an account of its organization and the work done in the ten years' of its existence. This report was sent to all the members of the Society, and to other societies with which it had been in correspondence.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for 1909 was held on March 15th of that year. At this meeting Mr. Henry J. Patten was elected a director to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Mr. Frederick D. Raymond. A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on May 20th, 1909, at which meeting Mr. Currey was elected president, Mr. Grover vice-president, and Mr. Wallingford treasurer for the ensuing year. Mr. Merton J. Clay was elected secretary.

The following lectures were given in Library Hall during the winter and spring months of 1909:

- January 11th, 1909. "Early Evanston," by Henry A. Pearsons.  
January 18th, 1909. "The Blue and the Gray," by Frank W. Smith.  
February 1st, 1909. "Illinois and the North Shore in the Seventeenth Century," by Frank R. Grover.  
March 15th, 1909. "Old Gross Point," by J. Seymour Currey.  
May 10th, 1909. "Evanston in the Civil War," by Henry A. Pearsons.

These lectures were illustrated with views on the screen, and, as usual, were free to members and friends of the Society. In the fall another series was begun, and, up to the present time, the following lectures have been given:

- October 26th, 1909. "Historic and Modern Boston," by Homer H. Kingsley.  
December 20th, 1909. "Some Crises in the Pioneer History of Illinois," by Joseph E. Paden.  
January 18th, 1910. "Sherman's March to the Sea," by John W. Thompson.

February 18th, 1910. "Abraham Lincoln," by Smith Stim-  
mel.

March 26th, 1910. "Evanston Forests, Old and New,"  
by Charles B. Atwell.

At the annual meeting held February 18th, 1910, Joseph F. Ward was elected a member of the Board of Directors. A meeting of the Board was held on March 18th, 1910, and the officers of the previous year were reelected.

Since the last report was issued there has been received a large number of books and pamphlets which have been properly catalogued and classified. The collection now amounts to nearly two thousand volumes and pamphlets; besides which there is in the possession of the Society a great number of maps, pictures, lantern slides, documents and objects of historical interest. New book cases and museum cases have been added which are already well filled and more are needed.

### ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Several valuable historical works have been added to the collection, the most noteworthy of which are mentioned as follows: A set of the "New York Colonial Documents," in thirteen volumes, containing much matter regarding western history in Colonial times; a set of Shea's "Charlevoix," in six volumes; a set of Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History of America," in sixteen volumes; several scrap books containing newspaper clippings on the World's Fair, the Spanish-American war, celebrated trials in the Chicago courts, and other important events; a number of old newspapers, some more than a century old; besides a great quantity of old letters, leaflets, photographs, documents, maps and museum objects. It is important to mention that among our accessions are a number of family histories, giving the ancestry of families resident in Evanston; as well as similar records in manuscript form. These are very desirable acquisitions and this department of the Society's collections should be greatly enlarged.

Appended to this report is a list of donors with a summary of their gifts. The following are worthy of especial mention though the list could be prolonged indefinitely.

Six carbines of different patterns which were used in the Civil war. These have been arranged in a case specially made for the purpose. They were the gift of Colonel Henry M. Kidder.

A cavalry saber with belt and clasp of the Civil war period. Presented by G. G. Gushwa.

A sword bayonet used by the Confederates and found at Richmond in 1865. Presented by Frank R. Grover.

A collection of fifty or more lantern slides, mostly portraits of soldiers who were residents of Evanston at the time of the Civil war, also a large number of photographs. These were the gift of Henry A. Pearsons.

A collection of lantern slides, illustrating the Civil war, was presented by H. W. Chester and H. D. Baker.

A collection of lantern slides, illustrating scenes in Evanston, was presented by Henry J. Patten.

A collection of lantern slides, illustrating early Chicago history, was presented by Frank W. Smith of Chicago.

Four commissions of General Julius White, two of them signed by Abraham Lincoln, were presented by Henry Ten Eyck White of Barrington.

A collection of photographs of the generals of the Civil war and other subjects, was presented by General John L. Beveridge, Hollywood, California.

A life-size bust of Orrington Lunt in plaster, used as the model for the work in bronze now at the Library of the Northwestern University, was presented by Miss Caroline G. Lunt.

The music of "Rally Round the Flag," with inscription and autograph of Jules G. Lombard, who first sang this song in Chicago during the Civil war. Presented by Mr. Lombard.

A copy of the speech read before the Men's Club at St. Mark's Church, February 16th, 1910, by Major-General Frederick D. Grant, together with the speaker's inscription presenting the manuscript to the Evanston Historical Society, with his autograph.

From Mrs. Elizabeth E. Marcy was received a collection of stereoscopic views and magazines of historical interest.

From Mrs. Agnes B. Hesler, a number of photographic views

of scenes in the early history of Evanston, taken by the late Alexander Hesler. Also a rare portrait of Lincoln.

From Mrs. Henry J. Patten, a number of copies of the "Historical Pageant," together with posters of the same. These have been sent to other societies on our exchange lists throughout the country, after retaining copies for our own collection.

From Frank M. Elliot, several large maps of Evanston on rollers. These are of various dates and are of great interest and value.

From John W. Thompson, a map of the state of Georgia, used in the campaign of Sherman's "March to the Sea."

From George M. Sargent, a map of the theater of war in Virginia, used at the time of the Civil war.

From Henry J. Wallingford, a valuable book of portrait photographs of Chicago citizens, issued in 1868. Also an early map of Chicago, and a number of newspapers of Revolutionary times.

From Frank E. Lord, a copy of Acheson's map of Chicago, published in 1854.

From Dr. Henry B. Hemenway, a number of photographs and letters relating to early Evanston, and many valuable volumes.

From J. Watson Ludlam, a number of photographs and volumes pertaining to the Civil war period.

From A. W. Watriss of Chicago, a number of photographs of interesting historical objects and localities taken by himself, together with lantern slides.

The historical societies of our own and neighboring states have liberally supplied us with their publications. The Wisconsin State Historical Society has sent us a complete set of their publications covering a period of more than half a century. The publications of the Illinois State Historical Society and of the Chicago Historical Society are quite fully represented on our shelves. Likewise the historical societies of Iowa, Montana and North and South Dakota, and Oklahoma, have sent their publications.

The Society is especially indebted to the liberality of the University of Illinois, the Field Museum, the Academy of Sciences, the Sanitary District, the various departments of the





**HARVEY B. HURD**

Born February 14, 1828; died January 20, 1906.  
He was a resident of Evanston for fifty-two years.



government at Washington, the departments of the state government at Springfield, and a great number of other institutions equally worthy of mention, for liberal gifts of volumes, containing matter of historical importance.

The income of the Society so far has been limited to the dues received from members and from donations of cash from generous friends. The Common Council of the City of Evanston, at its meeting on the 18th of January last, appropriated fifty dollars for the Society, "for the publication of its proceedings." This recognition of our work is deeply appreciated, and we are thus enabled to print the report of our proceedings which would otherwise be beyond our means.

The Evanston Historical Society occupies rooms in the building of the Evanston Public Library, which are provided for its use by the Board of Directors of that institution.

LIST OF DONORS OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS,  
DOCUMENTS, MAPS, PICTURES AND  
OBJECTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST.

(V.=Volumes; P.=Pamphlets; No.=Items, such as Pictures, Letters, Maps,  
Museum Objects, etc.)

	V.	P.	No.
Anthony, Charles E. . . . .	20		
Armstrong, Harry L. . . . .	1		
Association for International Conciliation, New York . . . . .		20	
Baker, Henry D. . . . .			25
Bannister, Henry M. . . . .			3
Barker, John T. . . . .	1		
Bartlett, Charles T. . . . .	1		6
Beveridge, John L., California . . . . .			12
Beyers, H. W. . . . .	1		
Blackman, H. E., Glen View . . . . .		3	
Brown, C. J. . . . .	1		
Brown, Miss Gertrude L. . . . .	2		
Bumstead & Co., Chicago . . . . .	1		
Burdsal, John . . . . .			1
Burnham, J. H., Bloomington . . . . .		1	
Burns, W. G., Springfield . . . . .			1
Carter, Orrin N. . . . .	1	1	
Chester, H. W. . . . .			32
Cheyney, H. C. . . . .	1		
Chicago Academy of Sciences . . . . .		2	
Chicago Historical Society . . . . .	1	1	
Chicago & North-Western Railway Co. . . . .		12	3
Churcher, Mrs. C. A. . . . .			3
Clark, Stewart . . . . .	4		
Clarke, S. J., Publishing Co., Chicago . . . . .	2		10
Clay, Merton J. . . . .	2	10	
Clifford, Edward . . . . .			1
Coe, George A. . . . .	1		
Commercial National Bank, Chicago . . . . .		1	
Crandon, Frank P. . . . .	1		
Cunningham, J. O., Urbana . . . . .		1	

	V.	P.	No.
Currey, J. Seymour . . . . .	5		10
Dawes, Charles G. . . . .			1
Dawes, Rufus C. . . . .		1	
Dell, Floyd, Chicago . . . . .	3		
Drury, Edwin, Wilmette . . . . .	2		
Eastman, Francis A., Chicago . . . . .	2		
Elliot, Frank M. . . . .	2		4
Evanston Index . . . . .	2		
Evanston Literary and Scientific Club . . . . .		1	
Evanston Press . . . . .	5		
Evanston Public Library . . . . .			10
Eyman, F. P. . . . .	1		
Ferguson, J. L. . . . .	1		
Field Museum, Chicago . . . . .	1		
Foster, A. Volney, Highland Park . . . . .	10		
Gardner, William A. . . . .	1		
Golden, M. J. . . . .	1		
Graham, Edwin R. . . . .			1
Gridley, Mrs. M. M. . . . .			11
Grinton, William, Joliet . . . . .		1	
Grover, Frank R. . . . .		5	3
Gushwa, G. G. . . . .			1
Hagarty, Mrs. Kate, Chicago . . . . .			1
Hall, Charles S. . . . .	1		
Hammond Publishing Co., Chicago . . . . .	1		
Hartray, William C. . . . .		1	
Hemenway, Henry B. . . . .	12		20
Herben, Stephen J. . . . .	2		
Hesler, Mrs. Agnes B. . . . .			25
Hitt, Isaac R., Jr., Washington, D. C. . . . .		1	
Holdom, Jesse, Chicago . . . . .		1	
Hunt, Charles, Boston, Mass. . . . .	1		
Iglehart, N. G. . . . .			26
Illinois State Historical Society . . . . .	2		
Jackson, Frederick D., Chicago . . . . .			3
Kenyon, W. J. C., Chicago . . . . .			1
Kerfoot, S. H., Jr., Chicago . . . . .			1
Kidder, Henry M. . . . .	3		6

	V.	P.	No.
Kimball, D. E. . . . .		6	
Kimball, William P., California . . . .		2	
Kingsley, Homer H. . . . .			9
Kirkman, Marshall M. . . . .	1		
Kiser, S. E. . . . .			1
Lindsay, Miss Mary B. . . . .	1		
Lombard, H. E., Kansas . . . . .			1
Lord, Frank E. . . . .			1
Lord, George S. . . . .			1
Ludlam, J. Watson . . . . .	9	6	10
Lumbard, Mrs. Frank, Chicago . . . . .			2
Lumbard, Jules G., Chicago . . . . .			1
Lunt, Miss Caroline G. . . . .	1	1	1
Mahin, Mrs. John Lee . . . . .			2
Marcy, Mrs. Elizabeth E. . . . .		100	13
McCool, Oliver P., Chicago . . . . .			10
Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society .		1	
Moffatt, W. S., Chicago . . . . .			3
Montana Historical Society . . . . .	3		
Nelson, Frank G., Chicago . . . . .	1		
North Dakota Historical Society . . . .	1		
Oklahoma Historical Society . . . . .	1	1	
Orchard, John G. . . . .	1		
Patten, Mrs. Henry J. . . . .			20
Patten, Henry J. . . . .			36
Pearsons, Henry A. . . . .	2		50
Pitner, L. C. . . . .			1
Powers, John P. . . . .	1		
Putnam, James W., Indianapolis . . . .		1	
Randolph, Isham, Chicago . . . . .		7	
Raymond, Mrs. F. D. . . . .			2
Reed, Daniel F. . . . .			1
Reed, Daniel W., Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.	2		
Rice, Mrs. W. H. . . . .			1
Robinson, John B. . . . .	1		
Roby, George W. . . . .	2		
Rogers, Charles A. . . . .	1		2
Richards, F. D. . . . .	1		

	V.	P.	No.
Rosehill Cemetery Co., Chicago . . . . .		4	
Sanitary District, Chicago . . . . .	10	5	
Sargent, George M. . . . .			28
Selby, Paul, Chicago . . . . .		2	
Shackelford, Collins, Chicago . . . . .			5
Sherman, Milton H., Chicago . . . . .			34
Smith, Frank W., Chicago . . . . .			12
Snyder, J. F., Virginia, Ill. . . . .	1		
South Dakota Historical Society . . . . .	4		
Spencer, Edward W., California . . . . .			5
Stockton, William E. . . . .	1		
Stone, George F. . . . .	1		
Stuart, Charles M. . . . .	6	1	
Swedish-American Historical Society . . . . .		1	
Talbot, J. S. . . . .	1		
Thompson, John W. . . . .			3
United States Government, Washington, D. C. . . . .	8	25	
United States Lake Survey, Detroit, Mich. . . . .		6	
United States Weather Bureau, Chicago . . . . .		5	
University of Illinois, Urbana . . . . .		1	
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. . . . .	1		
Voigts, W. R. . . . .	1		
Volk, Douglas, New York . . . . .			1
Wallingford, Henry J. . . . .	1	1	7
Ward, Joseph F. . . . .	3	3	22
Ware, E. F., Kansas City, Mo. . . . .	1		
Watriss, A. W., Chicago . . . . .			18
White, H. Ten Eyck, Barrington . . . . .			4
Wilder, Ralph, Chicago . . . . .			1
Wipperman, A. G., Chicago . . . . .			1
Wisconsin Historical Commission . . . . .	2		
Wisconsin State Historical Society . . . . .	19	2	
Work, Joseph W. . . . .			2

Gifts intended for the Society may be sent to any member of the Board of Directors, or directly to the Society rooms at the Evanston Public Library.

## LINCOLN'S VISIT TO EVANSTON IN THE YEAR BEFORE THE WAR

BY J. SEYMOUR CURREY

### I

The purpose of this article is to describe as fully as possible the incidents of Mr. Lincoln's visit to Evanston in the spring of 1860. Many particulars have been obtained from those who were living in Evanston at the time and who were present at the informal reception given to Mr. Lincoln on the evening of his one night's stay in our town, and, while some of their recollections have already appeared in print at different times, many are here given to the public for the first time.

In order to give a proper perspective and background to the incidents related in this article, it seems desirable to describe briefly the state of the country at the period in which they occurred and of Mr. Lincoln's connection with the events of that time; as well as some account of Evanston as it was in the year mentioned.

### STIRRING EVENTS OF THE TIME

During the early months of 1860, the Republican party, which some three years before had suffered defeat in its first presidential campaign under the leadership of John C. Fremont, was anxiously considering who should be selected as the standard bearer in the approaching campaign. It was generally thought that the convention to be held in the following May would name William H. Seward as the candidate. The famous Lincoln and Douglas debates had taken place in the summer and fall of 1858, and had given a national reputation to Lincoln, whose fame had heretofore been confined to his own state. The speech he made at Cooper Institute in New York, February 27, 1860, had caused his name to be frequently mentioned as a possible presidential candidate. Under Buchanan's weak and vacillating administration the arrogance and hostility of the southern states had become more pronounced, and the people of the north found in Mr. Lincoln's clear cut statements the best expression of the burning issues of the day.



## THE SANDBAR CASE

It was soon after Mr. Lincoln's return from the east that he spent a week or two in Chicago in attendance on the United States District Court as one of the counsel for the defendants in the "sandbar case," referred to in the papers of the time as "one of the most notable trials in the annals of our courts." It was during this time that Lincoln made his visit to Evanston. A few days previously he had accepted an invitation to address the people of Waukegan on political topics, upon which the Chicago Press and Tribune, one of his staunch friends and supporters, remarked: "The announcement will of course bring together one of the largest crowds that Waukegan can furnish."

## EVANSTON ASSUMING IMPORTANCE

At that time Evanston was a village of some 1,200 inhabitants and was developing a boom as a suburb of Chicago. An article in the paper just referred to, which appeared about this time, spoke of Evanston as having the handsomest residences and the best situation of any town in the vicinity of Chicago, and the writer predicted that between the two places would be built up a continuous line of stores and residences. The Chicago and Milwaukee railroad, afterwards known as the Chicago and Northwestern railway, had been open for six years. There was only a single track and trains passed each other at sidings located at different stations on the line. Leaving the terminal station at the corner of Kinzie and Canal streets, in Chicago, the stations were: Clybourn Junction, Belle Plaine (Cuyler), Chittenden (Rosehill), and Calvary. Ravenswood and Rogers Park had no existence at that time. The village of Bowmanville lay a mile west of Rosehill. All of these places except the latter had come into existence with the opening of the railroad, and Evanston itself had borne that name only some six years, though under older names it could claim a greater antiquity.

## BECOMES A SEAT OF LEARNING

The Northwestern University had been established in Evanston in the same year that the railroad was completed, namely, in 1854. The university from the beginning had given the

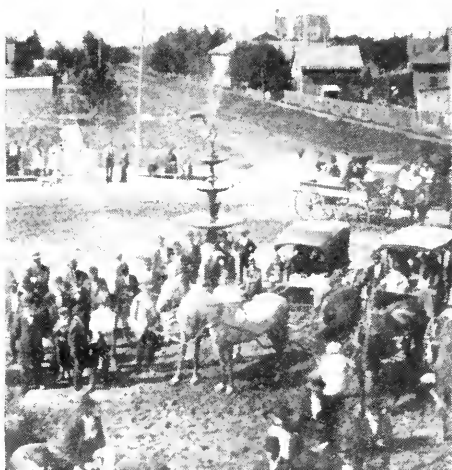
dominant tone to the community life of the place, and many of those who had more recently made their homes there had been attracted by its influence. These, with the families of the sturdy pioneers, who had opened the country to settlement in the previous generation, formed a population of a high degree of force and vigor which has ever since been distinguished for its wide influence and the high character of its people. The university had one building completed and occupied at the time of which we write, and the Garrett Biblical Institute, which was affiliated with the university, was about completing its first building.

## II

### MR. LINCOLN'S VISIT TO EVANSTON

In determining the date on which Mr. Lincoln visited Evanston, I have fixed it as Thursday, April 5, 1860. In an article published in the Century Magazine for December, 1881, by Leonard W. Volk (to be referred to presently), the author says that Mr. Lincoln went to Evanston on "Thursday." He says in another place that the visit was made "in the early part of April." There is no conclusive evidence on this point to be obtained either from Volk's article, or from any of those whose recollections we shall hereafter refer to. According to the date on the title page of the Chicago Press and Tribune the first Thursday in that month was on the 5th. If the visit had been made a week later, that is, on the 12th, it would still have been possible, perhaps, to speak of it as having taken place "in the early part of April." It seems impossible, however, to place the date of the visit on the 12th, because in the issue of the Chicago Press and Tribune of the 13th, of that month, a paragraph is quoted from a Bloomington paper stating that Mr. Lincoln was in that city. It seems safe, therefore, to set the date of the visit as we have given it, namely, Thursday, April 5th, 1860.

Mr. Lincoln visited Evanston upon the invitation and as the guest of his old friend, Julius White, who afterwards became a general in the Union Army. Mr. White at that time was a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and was harbor master. He lived in Evanston in a house situated at the northwest corner



**CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN**  
**Fountain Square, Evanston**

This fountain was dedicated on July 4, 1876, on the Centennial of American Independence. Honorable Edward S. Taylor made the address, the closing words of which were: "May the youth of today, soon to be charged with the responsibilities of government, remember that righteousness exalteth a nation. Drink, then, at the fountain which cheers but not inebriates, and link sobriety with your political faith, to the end that you secure to our country prosperity and peace."

This picture is a reproduction of a photograph made at the time of the dedication by Mr. Alexander Hesler.



of Ridge avenue and Church street, on the lot where Mr. Richard C. Lake's house now stands.

#### ERRORS REGARDING THE HOUSE

It seems necessary at this point to clear up some errors that have arisen concerning the house in which General White lived at that time, and, as we shall presently relate, where Mr. Lincoln stayed over night. The house was built by Alexander McDaniel and by him sold to Rev. Philo Judson, who enlarged it and occupied it for a time. It was a two-story house with a horizontal cornice, the roof sloping upwards from four sides to a short ridge at the top. The front door was in the middle of the east side of the house with rooms on each side of the hallway. There was no covered porch, simply a platform with steps descending from the front door.

#### WHERE IT REALLY WAS

In order to set at rest the controversy about this historic house and its present whereabouts the following statement of facts, which have been carefully investigated, is presented: When General White first came to Evanston to live, in February, 1859, he took possession of the house just described; but after he had joined the army, more than a year subsequent to the events here referred to, he moved his family into a smaller house, a story and a half cottage on the southeast corner of Asbury avenue and Church street, fronting on the latter street.

In later years the story and a half house referred to was moved to a location in the western part of the town, now known as 2319 Prairie avenue. From the fact that General White once lived in the house arose a tradition that this was the house in which Mr. Lincoln passed the night, and later occupants have taken pride in relating this story, for which there is no other foundation than that above mentioned. It was even proposed to place a tablet upon this cottage to commemorate the event, and pictures have been shown of it at illustrated lectures. The house in which Mr. Lincoln stayed was the one described in the previous paragraph. It was moved away by Mr. Robert Hill when he erected his residence on the present site and now occupied by Mr. Lake. When the house was moved

it was separated into two parts, the larger part being taken to the lot now known as 1227 Elmwood avenue (adjoining the High School on the south), and remodeled into a comfortable residence, which is now occupied by Mr. Albert D. Sanders. It does not, however, at all resemble the house in its original form. In this house is the room in which Mr. Lincoln slept. The other part of the house was moved to another location not ascertained.

It is remarkable how many houses we have here in Evanston which lay claim to the honor of sheltering Mr. Lincoln during the night that he spent in Evanston. We have shown that the house on Prairie avenue was not the one, though often claimed as such. Now comes a statement from the Reverend Charles H. Zimmerman, who writes as follows: "About the first of March, 1868, I came to Evanston for the first time to enter Garrett Biblical Institute as a student. The first night after I arrived I was entertained by Dr. and Mrs. D. P. Kidder at their home in the first house north of the present residence of Dr. M. C. Bragdon. When it came time to retire Dr. Kidder accompanied me to my room and said, 'I give you the same room that was occupied by President Lincoln over night, when he was in Evanston.' It was the northwest room, second floor, fronting on Chicago avenue."

The only possible way to account for this is that Mr. Lincoln was at some time, other than the occasion of his visit to General White, a visitor to Evanston as the guest of Dr. Kidder. There is no mention of it, however, in Strobridge's biography of Dr. Kidder, and Colonel Henry M. Kidder does not remember such an occasion. It could not have occurred when Mr. Lincoln was president, as he never returned to the west after his inauguration.

Another house which it is claimed was the one in which Mr. Lincoln was entertained is the cottage at 1513 Greenwood boulevard, now occupied by Daniel Devine and his family. Mrs. Devine stated in an interview with the writer that at the time Mr. Lincoln visited Evanston this house stood a short distance east of its present location, on the southeast corner of Greenwood boulevard and Asbury avenue, and was occupied by a family named Wilden. She says that no members of that

family are now living in Evanston, and that a number of tenants—a dozen or more—have occupied the house during the last fifty years since the visit of Mr. Lincoln, but that it was the family of Wilden who entertained him. She points out the living room in her house as the room in which Mr. Lincoln received the guests. Before her marriage to Mr. Devine Mrs. Devine was a widow, Mrs. English by name, and formerly helped in housekeeping duties at Dempster Hall, when Mr. Langworthy kept a boarding house for students there. She could not recall General White or any member of his family, and could not remember having heard his name.

A house known as the old Carroll house, formerly at 1465 Elmwood avenue, was demolished by the city authorities in August, 1909. It was supposed by some that this house was the one in which Mr. Lincoln was entertained.

Still another house, the one situated at 1028 Judson avenue, is thought by some to be the house in which Mr. Lincoln was entertained. As is well known, this house was occupied by General White after the war, when it stood near the corner of Davis street and Chicago avenue, and by him moved to its present location and practically rebuilt. The fact that the house was once the residence of General White has given currency to this belief, and it is often pointed out by residents in the neighborhood as having an historical interest for the reason that Mr. Lincoln was once a guest under its roof.

It goes without saying, therefore, that none of these places sheltered Mr. Lincoln, unless it can be shown that he made more than one visit to Evanston. The remark of Dr. Kidder, quoted by Mr. Zimmerman, is the only hint of such a possibility that I have met with.

#### MR. VOLK'S RECOLLECTION

A reference to Mr. Lincoln's visit to Evanston is found in an article published in the *Century Magazine* for December, 1881, by Leonard W. Volk, the sculptor. Mr. Volk had met Mr. Lincoln during the period of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, and had requested him to sit for a bust. Mr. Lincoln said that he would be glad to do so at the first opportunity. Mr. Volk, in the course of his article, thus relates:

"I did not see him again for nearly two years. I spent most of the winter of 1860 in Washington, finishing a statuette of

Senator Douglas, and just before leaving in the month of March, I called upon Mr. Douglas' colleague in the senate from Illinois [this was Lyman Trumbull], and asked him if he had an idea as to who would be the probable nominee of the Republican party for president, that I might model a bust of him in advance. He replied that he did not have the least particle of an idea who he would be, only that it would not be Judge Douglas.

"I returned to Chicago, and got my studio in the 'Portland block' in order and ready for work, and began to consider whose bust I should first begin in the clay, when I noticed in a morning paper that Abraham Lincoln was in town—retained as one of the counsel in the 'sandbar' trial. I at once decided to remind him of his promise to sit to me, made two years before. I found him in the United States District court room (in a building known at the time as the 'Larmon block'), his feet on the edge of a table, and his long, dark hair standing out at every imaginable angle, apparently uncombed for a week. He was surrounded by a group of lawyers, such as James F. Joy, Isaac N. Arnold, Thomas Hoyne and others. Mr. Arnold obtained his attention in my behalf, when he instantly arose and met me outside the rail, recognizing me at once with his usual grip of both hands. He remembered his promise, and said, in answer to my question, that he expected to be detained by the case for a week. He added:

" 'I shall be glad to give you the sittings. When shall I come, and how long will you need me each time?'

" 'Just after breakfast, every morning, would,' he said 'suit him the best, and he could remain till court opened, at 10 o'clock.' I answered that I would be ready for him the next morning, Thursday. This was in the early part of April, 1860.

" 'Very well, Mr. Volk, I will be there, and I'll go to a barber and have my hair cut before I come.'

"I requested him not to let the barber cut it too short and said I would rather he would leave it as it was; but to this he would not consent. Then, all of a sudden, he ran his fingers through his hair, and said:

#### WANTED TO BE RELEASED

" 'No, I cannot come tomorrow, as I have an engagement with Mr. W—— to go to Evanston tomorrow and attend an





*From a photo taken by Miss Ethel Coc.*

**RESIDENCE OF MR. ALBERT D. SANDERS  
1227 Elmwood Avenue, Evanston**

In this house Mr. Lincoln slept on the night of April 5, 1860. At that time the house stood on the northwest corner of Ridge Avenue and Church Street. It was afterwards removed to its present location, and was then remodeled and a new roof and porch built on it.



entertainment; but I'd rather come, and sit to you for the bust than go there and meet a lot of college professors and others, all strangers to me. And I will be obliged if you will go to Mr. W——'s office now, and get me released from the engagement. I will wait here till you come back.'

"So off I posted, but Mr. W—— would not release him, 'because,' he said, 'it would be a great disappointment to the people he had invited.' Mr. Lincoln looked quite sorry when I reported to him the failure of my mission.

" 'Well,' he said, 'I suppose I must go, but I will come to you Friday morning.'

"He was there promptly—indeed, he never failed to be on time. My studio was in the fifth story, and there were no elevators in those days, and I soon learned to distinguish his steps on the stairs, and am sure he frequently came up two, if not three, steps at a stride. When he sat down the first time in that hard, wooden, low-armed chair which I still possess, and which has been occupied by Douglas, Seward and Generals Grant and Dix, he said:

" 'Mr. Volk, I have never sat before to sculptor or painter—only for daguerreotypes and photographs. What shall I do?'

"I told him I would only take the measurements of his head and shoulders that time, and next morning, Saturday, I would make a cast of his face, which would save him a number of sittings. He stood up against the wall, and I made a mark above his head, and then measured up to it from the floor, and said:

" 'You are just twelve inches taller than Judge Douglas, that is, just six feet one inch.' "

In the above extract, which is printed just as it appeared in the Century article, the name of Mr. White is indicated by the initial W followed by a blank line.

Also it is to be noted that in the last sentence Mr. Lincoln's height is given as six feet one inch, whereas the fact was that he was six feet four inches in height. This was an error either on the part of the author or printer.

#### MR. HURD'S DESCRIPTION

When the day arrived for Mr. Lincoln to go to Evanston he was taken in charge by Mr. Harvey B. Hurd, who had been

designated to act as his escort. Mr. Hurd has left on record an account of this journey, which is as follows:

"On his return from his stumping tour through New England in the spring of 1860, bringing back with him the fame of his great Cooper Institute speech, he [Mr. Lincoln] was given a reception in Evanston, at the home of my then next door neighbor, General Julius White, and it was my good fortune to be designated to escort him from Chicago to his house. On the way Mr. Lincoln and I occupied the same seat in the railway car, that next to the stove. Putting his long legs up behind the stove and leaning down toward me, he related to me some of the more amusing episodes in his New England tour, such as he thought I would recognize as characteristic of Yankeedom (I had told him I was a native of Connecticut), some of them bringing out in strong light the issues of the campaign and how he had presented them.

"Calling to mind his great debate with Mr. Douglas and how he had grown in popularity all over the country, and that he was being talked of for the presidency, I could not help a passing analysis of his characteristics. The way he impressed me at that time was well summed up by a countryman at another time. 'Not that he knew it all, and that I knew little or nothing, but that he and I were two good fellows, well met, and that between us we knew lots.' His bearing at the reception, while easy, was at the same time dignified and pleasing. It required no stretch of imagination to think of him as the coming president of the United States. He inspired in all a desire to see him nominated and elected to that high office. There was no lurking doubt as to his fitness."

#### GENERAL JULIUS WHITE

Gen. Julius White (as he soon afterwards became known) deserves some further mention in this place. Soon after Mr. Lincoln's inauguration in 1861 he was appointed collector of the port of Chicago. White resigned this office later in the year to raise a regiment, the Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteers, of

which he became the colonel. The fact that he resigned an office paying a salary several times larger than the one he accepted in the army while having a large family to support was an act of true patriotism, and should be remembered to his credit. He was afterwards promoted to be a brigadier general and after the war received a commission of brevet major general. Four of the commissions received by General White at different times, two of them signed by Abraham Lincoln, are now in the possession of the Evanston Historical Society.

### III

Many of the old residents of Evanston still vividly remember, after a lapse of half a century, the occasion of Mr. Lincoln's visit here, and the accounts which are here gathered are mainly compiled from their recollections of that most interesting event. They are not all living whose testimony is here given, but the privilege they enjoyed of meeting and grasping the hand of the greatest American of the nineteenth century was a rare one and the occasion forms one of the most interesting episodes in our history.

On Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Evanston he was taken for a carriage drive about the village by Mr. White and then to the residence of the latter. A general invitation had been extended to the people to come in the evening and shake hands with the distinguished visitor. It was easy to spread the news of anything of the kind in a small community such as Evanston was at that time, and the people were quick to respond to the invitation. The house was well filled with visitors and Mr. Lincoln stood in front of the fireplace in the drawing room and conversed with the people as they arrived. Many did not enter the house, but contented themselves with standing outside on the lawn and giving vent to their enthusiasm by blowing horns, singing and shouting, which was called "serenading" in the parlance of the time. These "doings" were naturally followed by calls for a speech, a request which the visitor complied with by appearing on the front steps of the house and addressing the people assembled on the lawn. "I have a sort of general recollection of his speech," relates Dr. Henry M. Bannister, who was present. "He spoke

in a high, clear voice explaining his standpoint in politics and the reasons for it, making a special point that he had been guided by his sense of right." There was a general handshaking and exchange of greetings usual on such occasions. Afterwards a number of those outside went into the house and were presented to the visitor.

#### DID NOT SPEAK IN CHURCH

It is frequently stated that Mr. Lincoln made a speech in the old Methodist church which at that time stood on the lot where the Evanston Public Library now stands; but this is not so. Mr. Lincoln made no speech there. None of those whose evidence has been given regarding his visit mentions his having done so, and it was vigorously denied by the late Mr. Frederick D. Raymond. A picture of the old Methodist church was printed in one of the papers some years ago with the statement that here Mr. Lincoln made a speech when he visited Evanston, which seemed to give authority for the belief entertained by many persons, but it may be positively stated that no speech was made by Mr. Lincoln in the church.

In an interview with William Carney in 1901, Mr. F. D. Raymond asked him about his recollections of the Lincoln visit to Evanston, which he said he remembered, and that Mr. Lincoln made a speech from the front steps of General White's house. Mr. H. E. Lombard, now living in Kansas, was a resident of Evanston at that time, and, writing in regard to Lincoln's visit, says: "A number of us serenaded him and he made us a talk from the porch."

"I remember as though it was but yesterday," wrote Mr. Martin Mohler, a former student at the university, in an article printed in *The Evanston Index* in 1903, "the tall, lanky form of Lincoln and his expressive countenance as he stood shaking hands with admiring friends, while a stream of wit and humor, and story and laughter, came bubbling up from the great soul within."

#### MRS. BANNISTER'S ACCOUNT

Mrs. Emma White Bannister, a daughter of General White, wrote recently giving an account of the visit, which she remem-



*From a photograph by Brady, New York, taken in November, 1862.*

### **GENERAL JULIUS WHITE**

Born September 29, 1816; died May 12, 1890.  
He was a resident of Evanston thirty-one years.





bers distinctly. "Father told us one day that he would bring Mr. Lincoln up to spend the night, adding, 'he may be our next president.' He arrived on the evening train and dined with us, after which he addressed the Evanstonians from the front porch. Word had been sent to the leading citizens that Mr. Lincoln would speak and they soon assembled in goodly numbers in front of the house. At the conclusion of his address my father invited all who desired to come in and meet Mr. Lincoln. They surged into the house, were introduced by father, and all received a cordial greeting and hand shake from Mr. Lincoln. My father's house at that time was full of children, and during Mr. Lincoln's visit he endeared himself to us all by his individual and kindly notice."

#### MR. PEARSONS' STORY

Mr. Henry A. Pearsons' memories of the occasion are extremely interesting. At a banquet of the Men's Club at the First Methodist church in February, 1906, he spoke as follows:

"Mr. Lincoln came to Evanston in 1860, soon after he began to acquire a national reputation and had been mentioned as the man whom Illinois would bring out as a candidate for president. Evanston was then only a village of some 1,200 inhabitants, and, of course, all who could get there went to the house of Julius White to meet the distinguished guest, we boys to cheer and make a welcoming noise and our elders to shake his hand. I have a photograph of him taken in 1858, which pictures him as I remember him. The characteristics which I remember most distinctly were the pleasant smile and kindly greeting he gave us, the cheerful speech and apt words of his address, the exceeding tallness of the man, and the awkward way he had of turning himself one way or the other and bending his knees a little when emphasizing a point or coming to a climax. A really good quartet, led by our long-time friend and fellow citizen, Charles G. Ayars, called for Lincoln's special commendation; and I recall how he put his arms around Ayars' shoulders, and said: 'Young man, I wish I could sing as well as you. Unfortunately I know only two tunes, one is "Old Hundred," and the other isn't.' Mr. J. Watson Ludlam was then, as he still is, I think, the tallest citizen of Evanston, and

Mr. Lincoln stood up against him, back to back, to see which was the taller." Mr. Pearsons on several occasions afterwards, while an officer of the Eighth Illinois cavalry, saw Mr. Lincoln at reviews, and was one of the guard of honor at the time his body lay in state in the Capitol at Washington.

#### MAJOR LUDLAM'S STORY

Only a short time before his death in the fall of 1908, Major James D. Ludlam wrote his recollections of the visit, in a letter to Mr. Frank R. Grover, to whom he had promised to furnish the details for the records of the Evanston Historical Society. "In redeeming my promise to you," he writes, "to furnish my recollections of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Evanston, I send the following, only reminding you that fifty years is a long time for one's memory to be exactly accurate." He said he received an invitation from Mr. Julius White, "who lived, I think, in the house built by Mr. Judson over on what we then called the ridge." He met there "some twenty or thirty friends," some of whom he mentions by name: Mr. and Mrs. John L. Beveridge, Rev. Philo Judson, Harvey B. Hurd, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Iglehart, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Pearsons, Mrs. Appleton, Miss Mattie Stewart and Miss Isabel Stewart. "Mr. Hurd led the conversation principally with the help of Mr. Beveridge at the start, but soon Mr. Lincoln had full control, and in conversation and story telling captured the whole company."

Later in the evening some one proposed having some music, and Miss Isabel Stewart was invited to play the piano, which she did in a very delightful manner. Do not let the young readers of this sketch imagine the young lady seated at an "upright," for pianos of that form were not made in those days. Square pianos were in use and the one in Mr. White's house was probably of this pattern, the kind we used to call "megatheriums," which we used to behold with awe and admiration, including the player.

Mr. Lincoln then asked for some vocal music and Mr. J. D. Ludlam was invited to sing. This he consented to do on condition that some one would play for him. He was then introduced to the young lady at the piano, whom he did not know before, and after a song or two the singing became general. It

should be noted here that this introduction to the young lady, Miss Isabel Stewart, was more important in its results than seems at first sight, for in about a year after that the singer and the player were married. Thus the Lincoln visit has a peculiar interest as the starting point of a romance.

#### MEASURED WITH WATSON LUDLAM

James D. Ludlam and J. Watson Ludlam were brothers, both tall men, the latter the taller of the two; and with them was also present another tall man by the name of Homer Curtice, a conductor on the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad, the name by which the present Chicago and Northwestern Railway was then known. Poor Curtice was killed by the cars up near Kenosha some years later. Mr. Lincoln noticing so many unusually tall men present, including himself, remarked upon it and proposed that they should measure with each other. They therefore stood up, as Mr. Pearsons has related in a previous part of this article, and compared their different heights. It was found that Mr. Lincoln and J. W. Ludlam were exactly the same height, namely, six feet and four inches, and were the tallest in the "bunch." The company remained until quite a late hour for so quiet a place as the little town of Evanston was at that time.

The sequel to Major Ludlam's story is very interesting. During the following year events succeeded each other with startling rapidity. Mr. Lincoln was nominated and elected president, and the tremendous drama of the Civil war had opened. With many other young men from Evanston J. D. Ludlam had joined the army of the Union, and became an officer (finally major) in the Eighth Illinois cavalry. This was the only Illinois regiment in the eastern army in the early part of the war and Mr. Lincoln came out to their encampment near Washington to visit them, and made a short speech to "his boys," as he called them. He recognized Ludlam at once and asked after Miss Stewart, who had furnished such delightful music on the occasion of his visit to Evanston, and invited him to call at the White House. He made calls several times, and after lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln one day, Mr. Lincoln asked him to sing for Mrs. Lincoln the same songs which he sang when he visited Mr. White's

house in Evanston. This echo of the Lincoln visit to Evanston, and the romance that had its beginning at that time, throws a golden haze of sentiment over the event we have been describing, and heightens the interest that the episode otherwise possesses for all who take a pride in our Evanston annals.

Mr. Lincoln's visit to Evanston was made when he had reached a period in his life when all was fair. He was at the height of his fame as the most distinguished political orator of his time, he had become the rising hope of the new Republican party, and was often mentioned as a possible presidential candidate. The law case, which had required his presence in Chicago for the preceding two weeks, had just been decided (the day before) in favor of his clients. He was in the full maturity of his manhood, and he was probably as near "care free" as he had ever been in his life.

Six weeks afterwards Mr. Lincoln was nominated for the presidency, and in the following November was elected to that high office. He evidently did not forget his Evanston friends and his visit among them, for soon after he became president he began to show his appreciation of the friends he met here. White and Beveridge became generals in the Union Army, and, as we have seen, the homely songs and good cheer of the White house in Evanston were repeated in such a charming manner at the White House in Washington.



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